

SENATE No. 1694

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan C. Fargo

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to victims rights.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Susan C. Fargo	Third Middlesex
Gerry Leone, Middlesex District Attorney	
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	20th Middlesex
Harriette L. Chandler	First Worcester
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Scott P. Brown	Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
Anne M. Gobi	5th Worcester
Colleen M. Garry	36th Middlesex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO VICTIMS RIGHTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 228 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 14 the following section:-

3 Section 15. The death of a criminal defendant who is convicted of a criminal offense
4 shall automatically terminate the right to appeal or any appeal pending of such conviction, and
5 where such conviction has not been previously vacated or reversed by an order or decision of a
6 court, the judgment of conviction shall stand.

7 This section shall not preclude the attorney general or district attorney from commencing
8 an action to vacate the conviction judgment against a deceased defendant in the interest of
9 justice.